

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03026 041550Z

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3026

EXDIS

VIENNA FOR LEDSKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA: DISCUSSION WITH BITSIOS

REF: A) STATE 73272, B) STATE 71751, C) ATHENS 2988

1. I SPOKE TO FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS TODAY CONCERNING WEEKEND DEVELOPMENTS IN VIENNA AND THANKED HIM ONCE AGAIN FOR SHARING HIS REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS WITH US (REF. C. AND PREVIOUS). WE ALSO DISCUSSED BRIEFLY ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS' REPORTED HEART ATTACK LAST NIGHT; BITSIOS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE ARCHBISHOP PASSED A REASONABLY GOOD NIGHT AND HE, BITSIOS, DID NOT THINK THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD LEAD TO A PREMATURE TERMINATION OF THE VIENNA TALKS.

2. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO FILL BITSIOS IN IN A GENERAL WAY ON MY OWN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WAS TRANSPIRING IN VIENNA AND ALSO TO REGISTER WITH HIM WHAT I CHARACTERIZED AS "A PERSONAL IMPRESSION" THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 03026 041550Z

THE GOG COULD PERHAPS DO MORE TO ASSURE A CONSTRUCTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL UNFOLDING OF THE TALKS IN VIENNA. I SAID THAT WHILE WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED THE GOG'S EFFORTS TO KEEP US INFORMED OF WHAT IT UNDERSTOOD WAS GOING ON IN VIENNA, IT DID NOT SEEM TO ME THAT THE GOG WAS PLAYING ITS FULL ROLE WITH THE GREEK CYPROTS. (COMMENT: I HAD IN MIND THAT MOST OF WHAT THE GOG

APPEARS TO HAVE DONE OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS WAS TO TELL US AND WASHINGTON HOW AWFUL THE TURKS WERE BEHAVING AND AT THE SAME TIME URGING US, WALDEHIM AND OTHERS TO PUT MORE PRESSURE AND TO USE GREATER INFLUENCE ON THE TURKS TO MAKE THEM MORE FORTHCOMING. I WAS UNAWARE OF ANY INDICATION THAT THE GOG WAS AS ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT APPEARED TO BE WITH THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS. I DREW ON SEVERAL OF THE POINTS CONTAINED PARAGRAPH ONE, REF. A., PARTICULARLY SUBPARAGRAPHS (C) AND (D) IN THAT PARAGRAPH, TO INDICATE THE DIRECTION I THOUGHT THE VIENNA TALKS SHOULD PROCEED. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT I WAS NOT ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS BUT MERELY DOING THIS ON MY OWN.

3. BITSIOS WAS NOT VERY HAPPY WITH MY OBSERVATIONS. HE SAID THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE BEING FAITHFUL TO CLIFFORD'S EARLIER UNDERSTANDINGS WITH MAKARIOS AND THAT, THEREFORE, THERE HAD BEEN NO NEED FOR THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO WEIGHT IN WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOTS EXCEPT ON ONE OCCASION -- WHEN IT HAD PROVED UNNECESSARY. AT ONE POINT, BITSIOS SAID, JUST BEFORE THE WEEKEND, PAPADOPOULOS APPEARED TO BE FAVORING AN INTERRUPTION IN THE VIENNA TALKS BECAUSE OF THE UNSATISFACTORY TURKISH POSTURE AND RESPONSES-- OR, MORE CORRECTLY, LACK THEREOF. BITSIOS SAID THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD IMMEDIATELY SENT A MESSAGE TO ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS IN NICOSIA STRESSING ITS STRONG VIEW THAT PAPADOPOULOS

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 03026 041550Z

SHOULD REMAIN IN VIENNA FOR THE FULL PERIOD OF TIME ENVISAGED, DOING HIS BEST TO ACHIEVE WORTHWHILE RESULTS. AS IT TURNED OUT, HOWEVER, MAKARIOS HAD ALREADY SENT SUCH INSTRUCTIONS TO PAPADOPOULOS. THUS, BITSIOS SAID, EVEN THOUGH WE DID NOT KNOW EVERY ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOG IT WAS NOT REMAINING "ALOOF" FROM THE PROCEDURES IN VIENNA

4. BISTIOS CONCLUDED ON THE NOTE THAT, EVEN SO, HE WAS NOT TERRIBLY ENCOURAGED OR OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT SOON BECAUSE A TURKISH OFFICIAL HAD STATED JUST A FEW DAYS AGO IN ANKARA THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR TURKEY TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON CYPRUS UNTIL AFTER THE TURKISH ELECTIONS. THAT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE TRUE, I SAID, BUT EVEN SO THAT DID NOT PREVENT A MAJOR EFFORT BY ALL THE PARTIES THAT HAVE A STAKE IN THIS PROBLEM TO TRY AND MAKE AS MUCH PROGRESS AS POSSIBLE DURING THIS PERIOD.

KUBISCH

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